



Overview of Higher Education in Mexico





Mexico at a Glance

- With an estimated 2005 population of about 106.5 million, Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world
- Mexico is firmly established as an upper middle-income country.
- Mexico has opened its markets to free trade, lowering its trade barriers with more than 40 countries in 12 Free Trade Agreements, including Japan and the European Union.



- **Education in Mexico** is centralized with curriculum decisions being made at the federal level through the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP)
- Educational standards are set by this Ministry at all levels except in *autonomous* universities chartered by the government (e.g. UNAM). Accreditation of private schools is accomplished by a mandatory approval and registration with this institution.



Education System in Mexico

- **Kindergarten**, 5–6; beginning of "basic" education (*educación básica*).
- **Primaria (Elementary School)**
 - 1st Grade, 6–7
 - 2nd Grade, 7–8
 - 3rd Grade, 8–9
 - 4th Grade, 9–10
 - 5th Grade, 10–11
 - 6th Grade, 11–12
- **Secundaria (Secondary School)**
 - First grade, 12–13
 - Second grade, 13–14
 - Third grade, 14–15



Education System in Mexico


- **Bachillerato or Preparatoria (High School)**
 - First grade, 15–16; beginning of "middle higher" education (*educación media superior*).
 - Second grade, 16–17
 - Third grade, 17–18
- **University**; beginning of "higher" education (*educación superior*)
 - Four or five years leading to a Bachelor's degree (*licenciatura*)
- **Postgraduate**
 - One to two years leading to a Master's Degree (*maestría*)
 - Three or more years after the completion of a Master's degree, leading to a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D., known locally as *doctorado*).



Students Population in Mexico


Grade	Public	Private
Middle School	5,480,500	391,000
High School	2,764,000	608,000
Technical - Professional	366,000	77,000
Higher Education	184,000	74,000
Technical & Higher Education	1,830,500	577,000
Postgraduate	132,500	53,500

*SEP - 2004



Undergraduate Fields of Study

Engineering	Medicine
Administration	Psychology
Law	Communications
Computer Science	Education
Accounting	Architecture




GRADUATE STUDIES

4.6 % of total enrollment in the Mexican education system is for graduate studies.

- 205 Public Schools - Graduate Programs (54,104 students)
- 98 Public Schools – PH D Programs (38,134 students)
- 315 Private Schools - Graduate Programs: (44,158 students)
- 50 Private Schools – PH D Programs (1,587 students)

TOTAL: 137,983 STUDENTS



Graduate Fields of Study

Medicine	Dentistry
Health Specializations	Education
Law	Surgical Science
Administration	Psychology
Finance	Computer Science



Education in the U.S.

- Mexico: 7th in top-sending countries: 13,063 students in U.S.
and is one of only three non-Asian countries among the top senders.

- 62.8 % Undergraduate (8,200)
- 30.3 % Graduate (3,961)
- 6.9 % Other (902)

*Source: Open Doors



Education in the U.S.

More than 50% of the foreign universities chosen by Mexican students are U.S. Institutions.


Why the U.S. is an attractive option for Mexican students?

- Its geographic location
- Commercial ties – Mexicans need to be more competitive in the global market




Education in the U.S.

- The U.S. is the largest foreign investor in Mexico
- Its largest trading partner
- The leading source of its international tourists
- Preferred destination for Mexican nationals seeking graduate education




TOP RECEIVING STATES



- Texas
- Arizona
- California
- New York
- Massachusetts
- Illinois
- Utah
- Florida
- New Mexico
- Pennsylvania

* Source IE Locator Report



ESL PROGRAMS

- It is estimated that between 4 / 6% of ESL students travel abroad for intensive English programs.
- Main destinations are: Canada, Great Britain & U.S.

Canada
Great Britain
U.S.

TOP CITIES - ESL PROGRAMS

- » New York
- » Los Angeles
- » Boston
- » Washington, DC
- » Chicago
- » Philadelphia





Factors

- Cost of the program
- Duration
- Location
- Extracurricular activities
- Lodging options
- Certifications/Accreditation





BARRIERS ON RECRUITING MEXICAN STUDENTS

- Ignorance of education options in the U.S.
 - Mexicans are not aware of the extensive range of education options available in the U.S.
 - Community colleges
 - Junior colleges
 - Small four-year colleges
 - State programs



Barriers

- Lack of promotion
 - U.S. schools have overlooked the Mexican market
 - Canada & U.K. invest in promotion, marketing, incentives to students



TIPS / SUGGESTIONS

- Develop collaborative approach to recruiting
Institutional, State-wide, National
- Develop inter-institutional ties / articulation agreements
- Get involved in Mexican international education:
AMPEI, ANUIES
- Contact granting institutions:
IIE, COMEXUS, CONACyT, ANUIES



Tips / Suggestions Explore secondary markets

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Estado de <u>México</u> - Center South | • <u>Aguascalientes</u> - Center |
| • Puebla - East | • <u>Sinaloa</u> - North West |
| • Chihuahua - North West | • <u>Morelos</u> - Center South |
| • <u>Guanajuato</u> - Center | • <u>Tamaulipas</u> - North East |
| • <u>Coahuila</u> - North East | • Veracruz - East |
| • Querétaro - Center | |



MEXICO / REGIONS





EDUCATION USA-MEXICO

- In an effort to help U.S. colleges, universities and other educational institutions to enhance the promotion of U.S. higher education in Mexico, seven government and non-profit organizations have partnered under the **Education USA-Mexico** banner.
- The U.S. Commercial Service, the Institute of International Education, the Cultural Affairs office of the US Dept. of State, the Benjamin Franklin Library, COMEXUS, USAID, and the EducationUSA Advising Center can help schools establish ties to Mexico.

<http://www.usembassy-mexico.gov/bbf/education/educationusa.htm>



EDUCATION USA-MEXICO





STUDY USA TRADE MISSION

Querétaro, Puebla and Mexico City
October 18 – 21, 2006

The Education USA – Mexico Group invites you to participate in their first **STUDY USA Trade Mission** to Querétaro, Puebla and Mexico City.

This mission targets bilingual and bicultural schools in three of Mexico's most dynamic cities. You will have the opportunity to talk to Mexican students interested and, most importantly, *able* to study in the United States.



STUDY USA TRADE MISSION

TRADE MISSION COST: US\$900

U.S. EXHIBITOR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Evening Reception for Agents, Counselors and other multipliers
- Trip to Querétaro (Transportation service)
- Support at ASF Querétaro Fair
- Trip to Puebla (includes transportation) with visits to three different Intl Schools
- Visa Pavilion Tour and Briefing at U.S. Embassy
- Participation in the American School Foundation Fair in Mexico City (includes Hotel/event/hotel transportation service)



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